Hamlet—On Church Finance.

"To pledge or not to pledge:
That is the question.
Whether it is nobler in a man
To take the gospel free and let another foot
the bill,
Or to sign a pledge and help to pay the
church expenses.
To give, to pay—aye, there's the rub—to
pay,
When on the free-pew plan a man may
have a sitting free,
And take the gospel, too,
As though he paid,
And none the wiser be,
Save the church's committee, who,—
Most honorable men—can keep it a secret.
To err is human; human, too, to buy at
cheaper rate.
I'll take the gospel so,
For others do the same—a common rule,
I'm wise; I'll wait, not work;
I'll pray, not pay; and let the others foot
the bills,
And so with me the gospel is free, you see."

(With Apologies to Shakespeare.)

God (Eph. 3: 10). For the Church to fail here is to fail everywhere. It must go and teach all nations.

Thursday, January 6.—*Missions the necessary expression of Christian devotion.* All life requires a manifestation. This is just as true of life in its highest as it is in its lowest forms (I John 1: 2). The life was manifested. Missions are life and hence must find expression in some way. Love may be for years locked up in the heart, but it cannot remain there always without finding some outlet. If ye love me, ye will keep my commandments (John 14: 23), and my commandment is to go, preach, and make disciples of all nations (Matt. 28: 19-20). Missions are born and sustained by love to man as well as to God (John 15: 12). They have to do with man's whole nature (Matt. 10: 8). The Gospel is God's remedy for all human ills (Ps. 103: 3). To claim to have a desire for the salvation of men (Rom. 10: 1), and do nothing for it, is a contradiction of terms (I John 3: 17), and makes God a liar (I John 5: 10). There is only one way of salvation. It is through faith in the written and the Incarnate Word, hence the Word must be preached and believed (Rom. 10: 14-15).